WSDOT Public Transportation and Rail
Office of Transit Mobility
Regional Mobility Grant Program

2005 Framework for Project Evaluation

Initial Sorting of Project Proposals
The Grant Technical Work Group will perform the initial rating/grouping of projects and submit the list of prioritized projects to the Advisory Committee for their concurrence and recommendation. The Advisory Committee will receive a summary of applications, which include a project description and project map. Staff will prepare the summary. Staff and members of the Grant Technical Work Group will walk the Advisory Committee through the project summary and if questions arise on a particular project, copies of the full application will be available for discussion. The goal is to preserve the time of the Advisory Committee members without jeopardizing their role in prioritized project recommendations.

Project Evaluation
The following areas will be used to sort the project proposals:

> **Step 1: Compliance with General Requirements.** Projects are required to meet the following basic requirements to be considered.

> > A. Project proposals must include a completed Regional Mobility Grant Report Form.

> > B. Measurability.   Projects proposals will define how success of the project will be measured and define the steps that will be taken to achieve success.

> > C. Project Consistency with Plans. **1)** Project proposals must include email correspondence from the Regional Transportation Planning Organization or MPO documenting project consistency with the regional plan. **2)** Proposals submitted by local governments other than transit agencies must include email correspondence documenting project consistency with the transit plan. **3)** Project proposals requiring services or funds from another jurisdiction will provide a letter of concurrence from the jurisdiction.

> > D. Financial Plan. Project proposals will define the financial plan of the project. All project partners should be identified with a description of the secured and unsecured funding.

> **Step 2: Essay Questionnaire Review**

> > **A. System Efficiency.** Projects that improve performance and reduce person delay in the corridor and on public transportation will score higher. Current information should be included such as reduction in

travel delay, improvement of person throughput, reliability and ridership should be addressed.

Guidance. Projects will be ranked based on their ability to demonstrate cost savings relative to the grant requested, improved travel times, reliability, person throughput and improved system continuities, such as providing a gap closure or removing a system barrier.

- **High Score:** The project would provide substantial system efficiencies (reductions in travel time delay, increases in person throughput, etc.) or addresses critical gaps, barriers, or essential transportation linkages.

- **Medium Score:** The project would provide moderate system efficiencies (reductions in travel time delay, increases in person throughput, etc.), or addresses important, but not critical gaps, barriers or transportation linkages.

- **Low Score:**   The project would provide few system efficiencies (reductions in travel time delay, increases in person throughput, etc.), or addresses marginal gaps, barriers, or transportation linkages.

B. **Impact on Congested Corridors.** Projects improving person throughput on a congested corridor, potentially congested corridor or bottleneck/chokepoint will score higher. For example, vehicle miles traveled (VMT)/auto trips, person hours of delay reduced, percentage improvement, or level of service improved.

- **High Score:** The project addresses an existing bottleneck location on the corridor or a roadway location with a Level of Service D or E.
- **Medium Score:** The project addresses a future bottleneck or chokepoint or Level of Service C or D.
- **Low Score:** The project addresses a roadway with a Level of Service A or B.

C. **System Integration.** Projects that lead to improved system integration to multiple modes and improved system coordination/connection through regional connections or cross-jurisdictional transit services will score higher.

Guidance. Projects will be evaluated based on their relative ability to improve regional connections, provide improved system coordination, and improve system integration of multiple modes.

- **High Score:** Projects that significantly improve critical regional connections and coordination and significantly improve connections between a wide range of travel modes, such as

multiple transit agencies, ferries, commuter rail, bus, pedestrians, bicycles, carpools, etc.

- **Medium Score:** Projects that improve important, but not critical, regional connections and coordination and provide improved connections between several travel modes, such as bus, carpool, and pedestrians.

- **Low Score:** Projects that improve marginally important regional connections and coordination and provide improved connections between a few travel modes, such as pedestrians and bicycles.

D. **Sustainability of Benefits.**

Guidance. Projects will be evaluated based on their relative ability to sustain benefits beyond the initial grant period. To provide a benefit, a project should have characteristics that can be expected to meet the needs of a given area for an extended period of time and be considered a long-term solution to an identified transportation problem. For example, the construction of a transit station would be expected to meet long-term needs better than the purchase of transit vehicles that would need to be replaced over time.

- **High Score:** The project would provide a long-term solution to a clearly identified transportation problem, and would meet projected long-term travel demand. For applicable continuing projects, the applicant can clearly demonstrate its commitment to continuing the project beyond the initial grant period (e.g., submitting a page from the budget showing funding for the project, etc.).

- **Medium Score:** The project would provide part of a long-term solution to a clearly identified transportation problem. It would address a portion of the projected long-term travel demand, or could be adjusted to meet long-term travel demand. For applicable continuing projects, the applicant can demonstrate some commitment to continuing the project beyond the initial grant period.

- **Low Score:** The project would provide a short-term solution to an identified transportation problem, and would only be capable of meeting existing and near-term travel demand. For applicable continuing projects, the applicant cannot demonstrate how the project would be continued beyond the initial grant period.

E. **Partnerships.** Projects with a financial plan, secured funding, and a commitment to continue the project beyond initial grant will score higher. Projects that include partnerships, provide matching local funds, or including a commitment of in-kind services or local support will score higher. In-kind services include streamlined permitting processes through local jurisdiction. Projects that demonstrate a

secure source of local match/partnership funding will score higher. Documentation of support required.

Guidance. Projects will be evaluated based on their relative ability to demonstrate a local funding commitment and effective partnership(s). Projects that provide local matching funds or that include a commitment of in-kind services or support will score higher. Projects with partnerships that demonstrate a financial commitment will score higher.

- **High Score:** The project can clearly demonstrate a substantial local match AND partnership funding commitment. Financial partnerships need to be finalized in a formal commitment letter or document.

- **Medium Score:** The project can clearly demonstrate a moderate local match or in-kind contribution. Financial partnerships exist, but have not been finalized in a formal commitment letter or document.

- **Low Score:** The project does not demonstrate any local match or partnerships.

F. **Implementation - Readiness to Proceed -** Projects that are ready to proceed or can be accomplished expeditiously will score higher.

- **High Score:** Project will be accomplished or completed within 12 – 24 months of grant award.
- **Medium Score:** Project will be accomplished or completed within 24 – 36 months of grant award.
- **Low Score:** Project completion date is not known and is dependent upon additional funding to complete.